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THE GULL
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APRIL TRIP TO BAY FARM ISLAND

On Saturday morning, April 18, about 30 members and friends met in Lincoln Park, Alameda. It was a fine spring day. The air had the taste of April and lilacs were blooming in yards along the street. After a brief census of the park, we drove to the loafing grounds on Frontage Road to see the concentration of shorebirds, many of them in migration and in breeding plumage. We had a particularly good look at Dunlins, with their red backs and the black patch sparkling on their bellies, as well as, at bright Dowitchers, two lovely Horned Grebes, and Black-bellied Plovers looking now like their name. We studied one bird a long time, finally deciding it was a Black Turnstone with a trace of albinism on its head. Unfortunately, it was too far away for us to make it fly. The highlight of the Frontage Road for many of us was seeing baby Avocets for the first time—tailles and teetering on matchstick legs like young colts. The parents called our attention to the young by their excitement, not knowing we were only looking at the Horned Larks and Pipits nearby. At Bay Farm Island we stopped at the corner of Mecartney Road to see the Clipper Rails we always expect to be there. They are close to the road and it is possible to get a really good view of them. Another treat was a Greater Yellowlegs on a sand spit. near the sunken ships. In all, 50 species were seen, the following in addition to those noted above: Great Blue Heron; Common and Snowy Egret, Mallard, Canvasback, Sparrow Hawk, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit; Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, California, Ring-billed, Mew and Bonaparte's Gull, Forester's and Caspian Tern, Mourning Dove, Barn and Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Common Bushtit, Robin, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Redwinged and Brewer's Blackbird, Purple and House Finch, American Goldfinch, Brown Towhee; Savannah, White-crowned and Song Sparrow.

AILEEN PIERSON, *Leader and Historian*

APRIL BOAT TRIP TO THE FARALLONES

Two boats set out on Sunday morning, April 12, one taking people from Berkeley, the other taking those from San Francisco. The skies were clear and sunny but a rather heavy sea caused us to return early. Black-footed Albatross were in sight most of the way from the Light Ship out. Large numbers of Sooty Shearwaters were found. One flock of about 1,000 had a few Pink-footed Shearwaters amongst them. At the islands, there was the usual congregation of Gulls (Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, Ring-billed, Mew Bonaparte's), Cormorants (Double-crested, Brandt's, Pelagic), Murres (Common) and Pigeon Guillemot; also, a few Tufted Puffins and Rhinoceros Auklets. A total of 50 species was seen, the following in addition to those listed above: Common, Artic and Red-throated Loon; Horned, Eared and Western Grebe; Fulmar; Petral (prob.); Balck Brant; Greater and Lesser Scaup; Common Goldeye; White-winged, Surf, and Common Scoter; Red-breasted Merganser; Peregrine Falcon; American Coot; Black Oystercatcher; Surfbird; Black Turnstone; Whimbrel; Least Sandpiper; Dunlin; Dowitcher, sp?; Western Sandpiper. Phalarope sp?; Jaeger sp?; Black-legged Kittiwake; Sabine's Gull; Forester's and Caspian Tern; Ancient Murrelet; Cassin's Auklet. On the way back, we made a quick stop at Angel Island where a few land birds were seen.

R. G. McCaskie and R. Stallcup, *Co-leaders*

MARCH TRIP TO FREMONT AND VICINITY

On Saturday, March 28, 55 members and guests visited the sanctuary near Newark. The day was cloudy and cool; a few drops of rain fell. The tide was low as the group walked out along the dikes and the salt ponds had few birds. However, on the return trip many were seen, hundreds of Shovelers and small numbers of Cinnamon and Green-winged Teal. For lunch the group went to the C. F. Giles Ranch in the Irvington District of Fremont. This ranch has many old and beautiful planted trees and the birding was very good. Outstanding were the Yellow-billed Magpies, which were nesting nearby, a California Thrasher and an immature White-throated Sparrow. 74 species were seen or heard during the day. In addition to those noted above there were: SANCTUARY—Eared Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Common Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Mallard, American Widgeon, Pintail, Canvasback, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Marsh Hawk, Clapper Rail, American Coot, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Whimbrel, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Western Sandpiper, Marble Godwit, American Avocet; Glaucous-winged, California, and Mew Gull; Forester's and Caspian Tern, Burrowing Owl, Red-shafted Flicker; Barn Swallow and Cliff Swallow; Scrub Jay, Mockingbird, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, House Sparrow. Western Meadowlark, Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch; Savannah, Vesper(?) and Song Sparrow. GILES RANCH—Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Mourning Dove, White-throated Swift, Anna's and Allen's Hummingbird, Violet-green and Rough-winged Swallow, Common Crow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Varied Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Orange-crowned and Audubon's Warbler, Cowbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee; White-crowned, Golden-crowned and Fox Sparrow.

A. Laurence Curl, *Leader and Historian*

JUNIOR AUDUBON OUTING

On Saturday, April 25, forty children and adults met for an outing in Golden Gate Park, under the auspices of the Junior Audubon Club, in spite of the fact that this day will probably go down in history as *The Day It Rained In* 1959! Two hikes were conducted, one for the children and one for the parents, leaders and classroom teachers who had brought the children. During the lunch - in the rain - it was mutually decided to cancel the afternoon activities. All agreed that the outing had been worthwhile, the rain added to the fun. Special thanks go to the naturalists, Mr. Joseph MacMahnon and Mrs. Ann Antos and to Mrs. William Bachman who handled all of the clerical work.

Gladys L. Smith, *Education Chairman*

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NOTES AFIELD: "Yesterday I was at Ocean Beach, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, parked at the extreme south end of the parking space. As I scanned the water with my binoculars, I saw a northward migration of thousands upon thousands of Sooty Shearwaters. When I first saw them, skimming close to the water, I thought they were Cormorants but soon noted the tilting, skimming characteristic flight of the Shearwater. They were about a half mile off shore and myriads kept coming. I suppose I watched for close to half an hour and still they swarmed by." E. L. Place, May 11, 1959

Mrs. Esther Sym Henrie, a member of our own Golden Gate Society, has just had an article, *Bring Birds to Your Window*, published in the May issue of the *American Mercury* under the name of Essa Sym.

Mrs. Mary Meehan of Mountain View brings us news from the Hawaii Audubon Society. They have recently published a handbook, *Hawaiian Birds,* illustrated by Gene Young which can be obtained at the Bishop Museum of Honolulu or from Hawaii Audubon Society, Box 5032, Honolulu 14, Hawaii, Price $1.50. During the month of April the legislature of that state appropriated $16,000 for the preservation and restoration of the Nene Goose, the official bird of the state.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the folowing new members to the Golden Gate Audubon Society: from Berkeley, Mr. Leonard Belson, Mrs. Edwin C. F. Knowles, Miss Fairley Lang and Mrs. L. W. Lasell; from Oakland, Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Miller and Mrs. Lucile V. Payne; from San Francisco, Mr. Milton H. Hoge and Mr. Alex Kazakoff.

AGNES OCZKEWECZ, *Membership Chairman*

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY SANCTUARY AND MEMORIAL FUND

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JUNE MEETING

The 497th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on Thursday, June 11, at 7:30 p.m., in the Assembly Room of the Main Library in San Francisco. (Larkin at McAllister Street. Take No. 5 bus on Market Street.)

The speaker will be Mr. A. W. Larson, Junior High School Science teacher in Richmond and a member of our Society. During the summer Mr. Larson is a State Park Naturalist in Mendocino County. *Between the Tides* is the title of his talk on shore life and it will be illustrated by colored slides. Come and bring a friend.

Note A no-host dinner at the Whitcomb Hotel, 1231 Market Street, near the library, will precede the meeting. Meet in the lobby near the dining room at 5:45 p.m. Everyone welcome.

BONNIE SMITH, *Program Chairman.*

FIELD TRIPS FOR JUNE

On Saturday and Sunday, June 13 and 14, to David Snyder Cabin at Clark Station Summer Homesites in the northern Sierra. Elevation 6,200 feet. Also, to marsh area near Marble's Hot Springs in the Sierra Valley, east of Yuba Pass. Take Highway 40 to Auburn then Highway 49 north to Clark Station, which is nine miles beyond Sierra City. Another route: take Highway 40 to Truckee thence by Highway 89 west to Sattley; approximately one mile northwest of Sattley, turn left on to Highway 49 and cross Yuba Pass. Clark Station is two miles west of Yuba Pass. Accomodations in Sierra City: Sierra Buttes Inn, Yuba River Inn and Pence Motel. Camping at National Forest Service Lincoln Creek campground across North Yuba River from Snyder Cabin. Meet at Snyder Cabin 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday. On Sunday we will go to Sierra Valley. Meet at the Snyder Cabin at 8:30 a.m. or at *The Kitchen* in Sattley, at 9:30 a.m. Co-leaders: *Beth Snyder* (for map write: Mrs. D. P. Snyder, Clark Station, Sattley, California) and *Harold G. Peterson,* LO. 8-7534.

On Saturday, June 27 to Strawberry Canyon. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Botanical Gardens. The habitat, some man made and some natural, attracts a large variety of birds. Hummers can be seen at close range. Lazuli Buntings were present at this time of the year on a previous trip. Bring binoculars, lunch—if disired, and interested friends. Leader, Harold G. Peterson, LO. 8-7534.

. HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, $6.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, $1.50 per year.

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